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PAPERS OF THE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL STUDIES AT ATHENS.

GRAVE-MONUMENTS FROM ATHENS.

I.

In digging for the foundations of the large house which Mr. C. Merlin, the well-known artist and photographer of Athens, is building at the corner of Academy and Kephissia Streets, the workmen came upon considerable remains of an ancient cemetery. At my suggestion Mr. Merlin made over to the American School the right of publishing these discoveries, and afterwards generously presented to the School three reliefs and one other inscribed stone, together with some smaller fragments. The finds were made in the autumn of 1894. Only a part of them came under my observation at the time; hence the description of the graves and their location rests in part upon the accounts of Mr. Merlin and his workmen.

The description will be made clearer by Fig. 69, which exhibits an outline of the plan of the house, and its situation with relation to the adjacent streets. All the graves lay two or three meters below the present level of Academy Street, and this is somewhat lower than Kephissia Street. Within the triangle ABC were several graves with sides and tops of rough-dressed marble slabs. Near A were two of this type, side by side, one of which I saw opened. This contained skulls and other bones, more or less broken, which indicated at least five bodies, one of them that of an infant. With these bones was a jar, of poor and undecorated pottery, about 15 cm. high and of like diameter, containing only earth and some fragments of plain glass bottles of common Roman shape. The eastern end of this tomb was walled up with

brick, and a single slab of marble formed the partition between it and the companion tomb. A little west of A was found a sarcophagus of Pentelic marble. The only decoration on the body of the sarcophagus was a simple moulding on the front and ends; the lid was roof-shaped, the gable as shown in Fig. 70, the roof proper covered with the scale-like tile pattern illustrated in 'Εφ. 'Αρχ., 1890, Πίλ. 9, a sarcophagus [from Patras, No. 1186 in

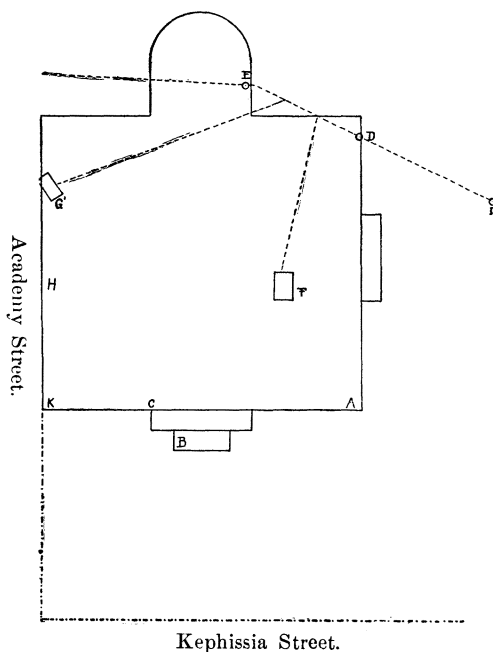


FIG. 69.—PLAN OF MR. MERLIN'S HOUSE.

the National Museum. (It is worth noting that this No. 1186 has on the back essentially the same design as the gable here illustrated; and that the same roof-pattern appears on two or three of the sarcophagi from Sidon, now in the New Museum in Constantinople, as well as on several other sarcophagi in the National Museum in Athens.) The top had been broken open, but the despoilers had overlooked a plain gold ring which was still within the sarcophagus. Near C was a large *cippus* of Hymettus marble, inclined perhaps 40 degrees from the vertical, in such a way that the top, with the inscription, had to be broken to

make room for the wall—unless, indeed, one was willing to spend considerable labor to dig it out and remove it entire. When I saw it first the fragments were lying near, and the inscription is given below as No. 1. Between A and C was a large Roman *stèle*, found lying on one side; from its weight there is no likelihood that it had been moved far. This is described more fully by Mr. Heermance in the following article. Within the space ADHK the trenches for the side walls and for the numerous cross walls of the house revealed twenty or thirty graves of poor construction, enclosed in tiles, nearly all of the shape of a continuous pointed vault springing from a horizontal base. In two or

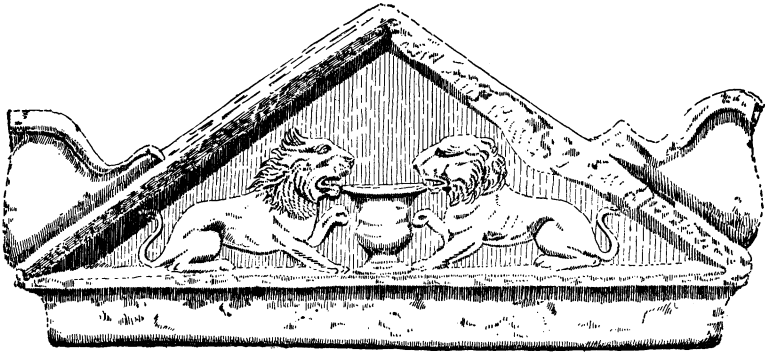


FIG. 70.—GABLE OF SARCOPHAGUS.

three the enclosing tiles made a coffin of cylindrical form. These poorer graves contained considerable remains of bones but no decorated pottery, and nothing to indicate a period earlier than late Roman. A few plain glass bottles of common Roman form, with many fragments of such bottles, and a few plain jars were all. It should be noted that nearly all the graves found were oriented in the general direction AB, that is, about east and west. North of the line DH none were found.

E, D and I are wells, apparently of Roman date, still containing an abundance of water. (It may be mentioned that in digging for the foundations of two other houses of Mr. Merlin, on the corner of Kephissia and Sekeri Streets, and on the corner of Sekeri and Kanari Streets, ancient wells were likewise found, which still furnish water.) These three wells were connected with each other, and also with two small reservoirs, F and G, by

aqueducts, as indicated in Fig. 69 by dotted lines. From E an aqueduct was followed in a westerly direction to the street line. In the walls of F and G were found reliefs and inscriptions described below under Nos. 2, 3 and 4, together with fragments of one or more richly carved sarcophagi of Pentelic marble. In the well D was a terra-cotta lamp of graceful form and decoration, with four or five small drinking-cups of reddish clay, undecorated and unvarnished, of the general shape 222 in the Berlin vase catalogue.

The location of these finds has been given in detail because of their bearing upon a question of Athenian topography. It is clear we have here the northern limit, at this point, of the cemetery along the northern side of an important road leading from one of the eastern gates of the city. There can be no doubt that the richer tombs were nearest to this road, the poorer ones farther away. Besides, if the road ran immediately to the north of the line DH, some trace of it would have been brought to light, and another line of tombs would certainly have been revealed on the other side of the street; for the apse-like projection on the northern side of the house extends at least 12 m. beyond the limit of the graves found. The road must therefore have run to the south of B, and presumably several meters to the south, to allow for the probable width of the fringe of richer tombs. The line A-K is 14 m., the point B 9.25 m. from the present line of Kephissia Street. The ancient road is thus located, at this point, very near the line of the modern road. And if one observes the nature of the ground in this region, as shown by the *Niveaulinien* on Kaupert's map, it will be seen that this is about the most natural line of communication with the country east and northeast of Athens, if one considers grade as well as direction. The sketch-map (Fig. 71) will serve to indicate Curtius' conjectural location of roads and wall in this vicinity and the amount of correction which these finds enable us to make. The lot on which the graves were found is shaded, as are two other sites where similar remains, probably belonging to the same cemetery, had previously been excavated. That in Muses Street is a house which belonged to Dr. Schliemann, who reported on the discoveries in the Athenian *Mittheilungen*, XIII (1888), pp. 207 ff.; the topographical

conclusions were drawn by Doerpfeld in the same journal and volume, pp. 231 ff., and the probable course of the city wall in Fig. 71 is taken from the latter article. The site at the corner of Constitution Square and University Street is that of the Hotel *Grande Bretagne*, beneath which and to the north of which were found graves of Hellenic dates.¹ In the upper part of Stadion Street, also, excavations for a sewer brought to light numerous tombs of

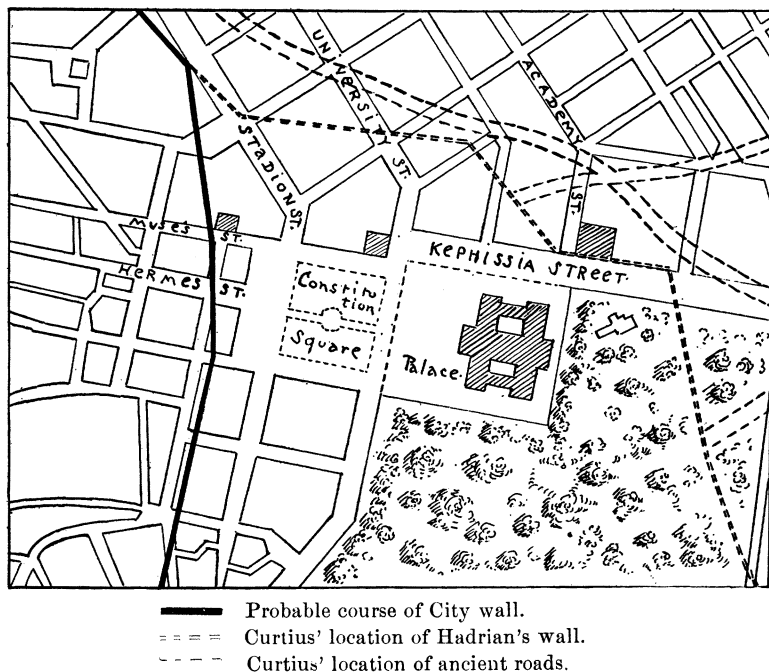


FIG. 71.—MAP SHOWING SITE OF THE GRAVES.

the fifth and fourth centuries B. C.,² which apparently formed part of the same cemetery; although it is true that these last may belong rather to a street skirting the wall at this point. Only in the case of Mr. Merlin's excavations have we the data for determining certainly on which side of the graves the ancient road ran; but the probability seems to be that the gate in the Themistoclean wall lay a little south of the ὁδὸς Μουσῶν, and that the road traversed the Constitution Square and passed between Mr.

¹ C. WACHSMUTH, *Stadt Athen*, I, p. 338.

² Δελτ. Ἀρχ., 1889, p. 125.

Merlin's new house and the Royal Garden opposite. The name of the gate is perhaps not yet determined beyond question; but Doerpfeld's identification of it with the gate of Diochares,³ in connection with his location of the Eridanus and Lyceum, has more in its favor than the older identification with the Diomeian gate. As regards the wall of Hadrian, I can add nothing certain, except that the gate cannot have stood where Curtius' conjecture placed it. This follows naturally from what is said above about the road. The inscriptions and reliefs discovered cannot be dated precisely, and may have been all earlier than Hadrian's time, so that it is possible that his wall was built between B and the present street; a deep trench from B to the street would settle the question.

The following monuments call for fuller notice.

1. Large *cippus* of bluish marble found at C on Fig. 69, inclined some 40 degrees from the vertical, the base never fully excavated. The top, with the inscription, was broken when I saw it, but the fragments were near by and all the letters clearly legible, as follows:

ΚΛΑΥΔΙΟΣ
ΡΗΞΙΜΑΧΟΣ
ΕΞΟΙΟΥ

Κλαύδιος
Ῥησίμαχος
ἐξ Οἴου

The name Ῥησίμαχος is unknown and strange; one is tempted to read Ῥηξίμαχος, although Ξ was perfectly clear.

2. Lower part of a *stele* of Pentelic marble, of the form shown in Fig. 72, found in the wall of one of the reservoirs, now in the Library of the American School at Athens. The moulding is broken off on the back, right side, and most of the front, to make it more serviceable as building material; how much is wanting at the top is uncertain. The height preserved is 14.5 cm.; the width of the shaft, without the moulding at



FIG. 72.—FRAGMENT OF INSCRIBED STELE.

³ Der Eridanos, *Ath. Mitth.*, XIII (1888), pp. 211 ff.

the base, 21.5 cm.; the depth of the shaft 17 cm. The inscription, in good letters about 2 cm. high, is of the latter part of the fourth century. It reads:

ΟΦΩΝ	[Στρατ]οφῶν
ΞΤΡΑΤΩΝΟΣ	Στράτωνος
ΕΡΧΙΕΥΞ	Ἐρχιεύς

The lower part of a perpendicular *hasta* over the first Τ of the second line, with a slight trace of the lower end of a similar *hasta* over the Ρ, points to [ΞΤΡΑΤ]ΟΦΩΝ as the probable reading of the first line. I have found no reference to a Στρατοφῶν of the deme of Erchia. The shape of the monument is also new to me; and of the archæologists who have seen it, no one has been able to point out an analogy to it. The bottom has its ancient surface, is nearly as smooth as the sides, and contains no trace of having been fastened upon a base. It must, therefore, have simply stood upon another stone with a fairly smooth surface—perhaps on a slab covering the grave and slightly above the level of the ground—and can hardly have been more than 40 or 50 cm. high. Possibly a relief or a painting adorned the front above the inscription. That it was a grave-monument rather than the base of a dedicatory offering is rendered probable by the circumstances of its discovery, in the neighborhood of a cemetery and among grave-monuments.

3. *Stele* of Pentelic marble with relief (Fig. 73), found built into the wall of the same reservoir with the preceding, and now in the Library of the American School. Height, 64 cm.; breadth, 25 cm.; thickness, 10 cm. The field of the relief is 38 cm. by 17 cm., and about 2 cm. deep; the face and right hand of the figure project 2 or 3 mm. beyond the plane of the enclosing frame. The lower left-hand portion of the *stèle* has been in some way cut smoothly away, so that the lower left-hand corner retires 1 cm. from the general plane. This was no doubt hidden in a socket or in the ground. The relief represents a woman in middle life, standing *en face*, the weight upon the left leg, clad in simple *chiton* and *himation*, both arms and the left hand wrapped in the *himation*, the right hand raised and laid against the left breast. The nose has suffered, and indeed the entire surface of the relief,

which is the work of an ordinary artisan. The inscription on the architrave above the figure, in letters 1 cm. high in the upper line, distinctly less in the crowded lower line, still retaining traces of red, reads :



FIG. 73.—STELE OF STATIA.

ΣΤΑΤΙΑΝΘΑΛΛΟΥΣΑΝ
ΦΙΛΑΝΔΡΙΑ ΤΡΥΦΩΝΑΝ Ε
CΤΗCΕΝ

Στατίαν θάλλουσαν | φιλανδρίας Τρύφων ἀνέ | στησεν.

The letters in general are rather broad, particularly H. Such a genitive of cause as *φιλανδρίας*, without preposition, is unusual with a verb like *ἀνέστησεν*. *θάλλουσιν* seems to mean *in the bloom of life*.



FIG. 74.—STELE OF A BOY.

4. *Stele* of Pentelic marble with relief (Fig. 74), found in the wall of the same reservoir with the preceding, in three pieces, with another crack near the bottom, reaching not quite across.

The total height is 64 cm.; breadth, 37–39 cm.; thickness, 7–9 cm.; the field of the relief is 41 cm. by 27 cm., concave, varying in depth from 1 cm. at the edge to 2.5 cm. The relief is of very poor work, and represents a naked boy standing *en face*, the left hand at the side, holding a ball, the right hand holding a bird against the breast. The inscription consists of four hexameters, irregularly cut, in letters ranging from 0.5 to 1 cm. high; the first three verses above the relief, the fourth verse broken into five lines and placed at the left of the child's head. Endeavoring to get the thirty-eight letters of line two and the forty-one letters of line three into the same space as the thirty-two letters of line one, the stone-cutter so far miscalculated as exactly to reverse the relation of lengths; line three comes out shortest as regards space, and line two the next shortest. The letters are of about the same style as in the preceding, and read:

ΤΙCΤΕΥCΑCΑΙΔΗΤΟΝΗΠΤΙΟΝΗΡΠΤΑCΑCΗΜΩΝ
 ΤΟΝΓΛΥΚΕΡΟΝΤΕCΟΛΩΝΑΚΑΤΗΓΑΓΕCΟΥΚΕΛΕΗCΑC
 ΤΟΒΡΕΦΟCΕΞΜΗΝΩΝΤΟΚΑΛΟΝΒΡΕΦΟCΩCΤΙΚΡΟΝΑΛΓΟC
 ΔΕΙΛΑΙΟΙC
 ΓΟΝΕCCCI
 ΠΤΕΠΡΩΜ
 ΕΝΗΕΞΕ
 ΤΕΛΕCΑC

Τί σπεύσας, Ἀΐδη, τὸν ἥπιον ἥρπασας ἡμῶν
 τὸν γλυκερὸν τε Σόλωνα; κατήγαγες οὐκ ἐλέησας
 τὸ βρέφος ἐξ μηνῶν, τὸ καλὸν βρέφος. ὥς πικρὸν ἄλγος
 δειλαίοις γονέεσσι, Πεπρωμένη, ἐξετέλεσας.

There is a metrical irregularity in the first line, where *τόν* has the place of a long syllable, and *ἥπιον* is an unusual epithet for a six months' babe. But among the metrical inscriptions discussed by Allen are⁴ three hexameters with a short syllable for a long one in the same place in the line, one being from Athens of the fourth century B. C., one from Thessaly, and one from Metapontum; and *ἥπιος* in the sense of *gentle* is not so rare as to be impossible here. The simple pathos of the lines gives them a literary value that is unusual in grave inscriptions.

THOMAS DWIGHT GOODELL.

Athens, April, 1895.

⁴ Papers of the American School, vol. iv, p. 78.

NOTE.—In the first line of No. 4 my colleague, Professor Seymour, would read τὸν [ν]ήπιον, assuming a stone-cutter's error. This reading restores the meter and is probably right, though comparatively frigid in sentiment. Professor Allen suggests making τε connect ἥρπασας and κατήγαγες, and removing the mark of interrogation to line 3, as follows:—

Τί σπεύσας, Ἄϊδη, τὸν [ν]ήπιον ἥρπασας ἡμῶν,
τὸν γλυκερόν τε Σόλωνα κατήγαγες οὐκ ἐλέησας,
τὸ βρέφος ἐξ μηνῶν, τὸ καλὸν βρέφος; ὥς πικρὸν ἄλγος
δειλαίοις γονέεσσι, Πεπρωμένη, ἐξετέλεσας.

T. D. G.

Yale University, December, 1895.

II.

The *stèle* here published (Fig. 75) was found in November, 1894, in digging the cellar of a house on the northeast corner of Kephissia and Academy Streets, opposite the entrance to the Palace Garden. It was presented to the American School of Classical Studies by the owner of the property, Mr. C. Merlin, and in January, 1895, was placed in the School grounds, where it now stands. In the same excavations sarcophagi and other *stelai* were turned up, and taken in connection with previous finds nearer the Syntagma, show that these graves lined one of the roads leading from Athens into the outlying country. Dr. Doerpfeld¹ has shown good reasons for believing that the gate by which this road left the city was that of Diochares, though the traditional view (which is maintained by other recent topographers like Curtius,² Lolling,³ Milchhoefer,⁴ and Wachsmuth⁵) puts the Diomeian Gate in this vicinity.

The *stèle* is made of white Pentelic marble, with some flaws in it, and measures 1.98 m. in length, .82 m. in breadth. Both the upper and lower left hand corners are broken and missing, as are also the nose of the figure, the tip of the left thumb, and various

¹ *Ath. Mitth.*, XIII (1888), 219; *ib.*, 232.

² *Stadtgeschichte von Athen*, pp. 107, 182; (und Kaupert) *Karten von Attika*, Bl. Ia.

³ In IWAN MÜLLER'S *Handbuch*, III, 304.

⁴ In BAUMEISTER'S *Denkmäler*, p. 149.

⁵ *Stadt Athen im Alterthum*, I, 345.